GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3007
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
ERADICATION OF KALA AZAR
RATTAN LAL KATARIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing incidents of fatal disease Kala-azar in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to check it ;

(c) whether the Government have collaborated with foreign institutions to develop a medicine to cure this disease; and

(d) if so, the names of such institutions?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): Kala-azar is endemic in Bihar and a few districts of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. As per reports received form State Health Authorities, number of Kala-azar Cases, State-wise during the last three years and the current year (upto June 2003) have been as under :-

Affected States	2000 No. of Cases	2001 No. of Cases	2002 No. of Cases	2003# No. of Cases
Bihar	12909	10327	9389	5050
Jharkhand	469	589	758	1059
West Bengal	1244	1238	1592	635
Uttar Pradesh	47	22	32	2
Imported Cases treated in Delhi	84	63##	74	7

As per reports received upto June, 2003
One imported case treated in Gujarat

(b): The problem of control of Kala-azar is addressed under the Centrally Sponsored Kala-azar control Programme. The Central Govt. provides anti Kala-azar drugs and insecticides for Kala-azar control. The concerned State Governments bear the cost of transportation, spray wages etc. However, it is now proposed to meet this expenditure also from the Central Budget so as to facilitate better implementation.

The strategy for Kala-azar control adopted under the programme includes:-

Interruption of transmission through vector control by undertaking residual insecticidal spraying in affected areas.

Early diagnosis and complete treatment through Primary Health Care System.

Health Education and Community Participation.

Situation is monitored through regular reports/returns and periodic visit by Officers from the Centre.

(c)&(d): The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has entered into collaboration with WHO/TDR, Zentaris and Germa Remedies Ltd., the Indian partner Company of Zentaris to carry out a Phase IV clinical trial on orally acting Miltefosine for the

treatment of Kala-azar. The study is being supported by the ICMR. Clinical trial (Phase III) using injectable paromomycin is also going on at RMRI, Patna with WHO support.